

## Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/776,690

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Applicant(s)

WU ET AL.

Art Unit

2882

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communications filed on October 11, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 15, in the third to last line, insert a comma after "tomosynthesis".

In claim 25, in the second to last line, insert a comma before "wherein".

### *Reasons for Allowance*

3. Claims 1-34 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

4. Regarding claim 1 and in light of Applicant's arguments (see pages 9 and 10 in Applicant's Remarks filed October 11, 2007) and the declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 filed October 11, 2007, which is sufficient to overcome the claim rejections based upon Wu (Three-Dimensional Mammography Reconstruction Using Low-Dose Projection Images), the prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest an imaging method for creating a three-dimensional reconstruction of a target element, including applying an iterative reconstruction algorithm to the radiation absorbance images to generate a three-dimensional reconstruction of the target element

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using tomosynthesis, wherein the iterative reconstruction algorithm is applied using cone-beam forward projection and back projection, in combination with all of the other limitations in the claim. Claims 2-14 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

5. Regarding claim 15 and in light of Applicant's arguments and the declaration as noted above, the prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest a system for three-dimensional imaging of a target element, including a processor configured to apply an iterative reconstruction algorithm to radiation absorbance projection images to generate a three-dimensional reconstruction of the target element using tomosynthesis, wherein the iterative reconstruction algorithm is applied using cone-beam forward projection and back projection, in combination with all of the other limitations in the claim. Claims 16-24 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

6. Regarding claim 25 and in light of Applicant's arguments and the declaration as noted above, the prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest a computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program, including computer program code for applying an iterative reconstruction algorithm to the radiation absorbance images to generate a three-dimensional reconstruction of the target element using tomosynthesis, wherein the iterative reconstruction algorithm is applied using cone-beam forward projection and back projection, in combination with all of the other limitations in the claim. Claims 26-34 are allowed by virtue of their dependency.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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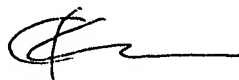
fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### *Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Chih-Cheng Glen Kao  
Primary Examiner  
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